

SECURITY INFORMATION

CIA Progress Report, October 1950 to December 1951
Section IV, 7, Specific problems of the separate offices
OSR Problem 4, Contact between OSR analysts and field collection facilities

Although some progress has been made on the problem of bringing the field collection mission closer to the research objectives, much remains to be done.

The essence of the problem is that in the past security requirements imposed by the information — collectors' to protect their sources have tended to prevent the analyst from giving proper guidance for source exploitation, and also prevented the analyst from knowing about the limitations of the collection facilities.

In the former case, the intervening numbers of people in the communication circuit has caused a breakdown in the proper understanding by the source of what information was wanted by the analyst, and the understanding by the analyst of what the source had to offer. This again is a problem particularly acute in the economic field, where technical specialization plays such a large part, and it is necessary for brothers of the same international technical fraternity to be relatively close together in understanding before a subject can be discussed with any firm results.

In the latter case, because of security, the analyst has not had adequate knowledge of the general limitations and peculiar problems of field collection. As a result, the analyst has overloaded the collection apparatus and spread broadcast requirements ill-suited to the collection facility, with a resulting mutual frustration and lack of results.

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During the past year more direct contact has been established with SO, OO, and with the foreign service reporting facilities in the State Department. In the [REDACTED] an initial ORR participation in the field of collection by two field representatives has been undertaken with a view to giving more intensive guidance on the collection of economic information there.

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In the resolution of the main problem, the effort in [REDACTED] area can only be considered a very small first step. ORR must intensify its direct field guidance in other areas.

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